

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of possession of the claimed invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein that has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11. In view of the amino acid sequences disclosed in the specification, Applicants submit that the claimed DNA has been clearly defined in the claims that correspond to the disclosure in the application in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

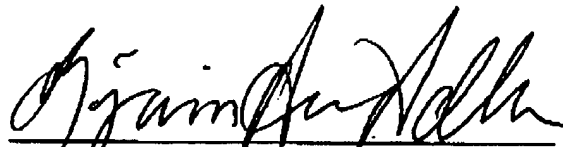
Claim 1 has been amended as described above. Applicants submit that the metes and bounds of the claimed invention have been clearly defined in that there are definite amino acid sequences.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1 and 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Final Office Action mailed January 9, 2003. Applicants submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Jan 27, 2003



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) An isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~(a) isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein that has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11;~~

~~(b) isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein, said DNA hybridizes at high stringency conditions to the complementary strand of the isolated DNA of (a) above, wherein high stringency conditions are characterized as membrane washing at high temperature and low salt concentration functionally equivalent to 0.1 x SSC at 65°C; and~~

~~(c) isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein, wherein said DNA differs from the isolated DNAs of (a) and (b) above in codon sequence due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.~~